

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1082
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2001
BLACKMARKETING OF RICE MEANT FOR BPL
RAGHUNATH JHA

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government are aware of blackmarketing of rice meant for BPL;
- (b) if so, in how many states the rice reserved for BPL category was sold in blackmarket;
- (c) whether rice is being exported at Rs. 5.65 per kg. but it is provided in drought-hit areas at Rs. 6.40 per kg.;
- (d) if so, the reasons for the same; and;
- (e) the quantum of rice found damaged in FCI godowns during the last three years?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI PRADHAN)

(a)&(b): Public Distribution System (PDS) is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and State Government. Whereas the Central Government is responsible for procurement, storage and transportation of foodgrains upto the designated godowns of FCI, the responsibility of distribution of foodgrains to targeted beneficiaries in a transparent and accountable manner rests with the State Governments. Complaints regarding malfunctioning of TPDS including blackmarketing of foodgrains meant for distribution under PDS received in the Ministry are forwarded to the concerned State Governments/UT Administrations for taking suitable actions.

(c)&(d): Government of India has allowed FCI to offer rice @ Rs. 5650/- per MT and parboiled rice @ Rs. 6000/- per MT to the exporters whereas Government has been allocating foodgrains free of cost to the drought affected states for food for work programme. Foodgrains are also allotted to the States for calamity relief such as draught, flood etc. at BPL rates i.e. Rs. 5650/- per MT of rice and Rs. 4150 per MT of wheat for distribution to the affected families.

(e): The quantity of rice categorised as damaged in FCI godowns during the last three years is given below:

Year	Quantity
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1998-1999	1.15 lakh tones
1999-2000	1.15 lakh tones
2000-2001	0.36 lakh tones